Twitter Thread by Heshmat Alavi

Heshmat Alavi
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#BREAKING
U.S. charges political scientist Kaveh Afrasiabi with acting as an agent of #Iran's regime.

https://t.co/fsmrOtgImm

Afrasiabi is a known Tehran apologist & strongly defends the world's number one terrorist Qassem Soleimani.



"Afrasiabi was actually a secret employee of the Government of Iran & the Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN who was being paid to spread their propaganda.... he intentionally avoided registering with the Dept. of Justice as the Foreign Agents Registration Act required."



“Mr. Afrasiabi never disclosed to a congressman, journalists or others who hold roles of influence in our country that he was being paid by #Iran's gov to paint an untruthfully positive picture of the nation."

Afrasiab on CNN with Amanpour & Reza Aslan, all Iran apologists.



"For more than a decade, Mr. Afrasiabi was allegedly paid, directed & controlled by #Iran's gov to lobby U.S. gov officials, including a congressman; and to create & disseminate information favorable to the Iranian gov."

Seen here with former regime president Mohammad Khatami.



"Afrasiabi has also been secretly employed by the Iranian government and paid by Iranian diplomats assigned to the Permanent Mission of the IMUN. Afrasiabi has been paid approximately $265,000 in checks drawn on the IMUN's official bank accounts since 2007..."



"... and has received health insurance through the IMUN's employee health benefit plans since at least 2011."

In the course of his employment by the Iranian government, Afrasiabi has lobbied a U.S. congressman and the U.S. Department of State to advocate for policies favorable to Iran, counseled Iranian diplomats concerning U.S. foreign policy, made television appearances to advocate for the Iranian government's views on world events, and authored articles and opinion pieces espousing the Iranian government's position on various matters of foreign policy. Afrasiabi has long known that FARA requires agents of foreign principals to register with the U.S. Department of Justice and has discussed information obtained from FARA disclosures with others. Nevertheless, Afrasiabi did not register as an agent of the Government of Iran.

Afrasiabi had direct contact with #Iran's Foreign Minister @JZarif, according to the U.S. Justice Department, and proposed "retaliation" following the killing of former IRGC Quds Force chief Qassem Soleimani.

And we know of Zarif's very close relationship with Soleimani.

For example, in January 2020, Afrasiabi emailed Iran's Foreign Minister and Permanent Representative to the United Nations with advice for "retaliation" for the U.S. military airstrike that killed Major General Qasem Soleimani, the head of the Quds Force, the external operations arm of the Iranian government's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, proposing that the Iranian government "end all inspections and end all information on Iran's nuclear activities pending a [United Nations Security Council] condemnation of [the United States'] illegal crime." Afrasiabi claimed that such a move would, among other things, "strike fear in the heart of [the] enemy."

More on Afrasiabi's direct connection with Zarif & how none of his work would have been possible without support from #Iran's regime.

Afrasiabi has admitted in his own communications that his extensive body of published works and television appearances, in which he has consistently advocated perspectives and policy positions favored by the Iranian government, has been attributable to the funding he receives from the Iranian government. For example, in a July 28, 2020, email to Iran's Foreign Minister, Afrasiabi included "links for many of [his] works, including books, hundreds of articles in international newspapers and academic journals," telling Iran's Foreign Minister "Without support none of this would have been possible! This has been a very productive relationship spanning decades that ought not to be interrupted."

It is worth noting that Afrasiabi was interviewed by the likes of Asieh Namdar, a known #Iran apologist/lobbyist who has direct ties with Tehran's DC-based lobby group @NIACouncil.

Iran's regime's trust Namdar and she has been granted interviews with Zarif.



The @TheJusticeDept & the @FBI should continue their investigations into #Iran's network of apologists/lobbyists in the U.S.

Here are a few names to begin with.



.@hmousavian is another #Iran lobbyist in the U.S. and @Princeton has yet explained why they have hired such an individual who has a terrorist past.

See this thread
https://t.co/aOWxVH2XFT

> THREAD
>
> 1)
> Meet @hmousavian, an Iranian terrorist turned \u201cPrinceton scholar,\u201d who runs #Iran\u2019s talking points in mainstream media.
> His recent piece, \u201cCan We Stop the Slow Slide to a U.S.-Iran War?\u201d is in line with @JZarif\u2019s recent punch lines.
>
> Credit: @IranianForum pic.twitter.com/WEaDDhbU8K
>
> — Heshmat Alavi (@HeshmatAlavi) May 6, 2019

Afrasiab & Mousavian were provided a platform by @nytimes to push #Iran's talking points, calling on the West to further appease #Iran's regime & provide a list of concessions along with "recognizing the regime's rights."

https://t.co/5TqxIZM4Uj

The New York Times

Opinion

OP-ED CONTRIBUTORS

Critical Threshold in the Iran Crisis

By Hossein Mousavian and Kaveh Afrasiabi

May 11, 2012